

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

INFO AMCONSUL ZAGREB

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC, YO

SUBJECT: AMCIT AJET AZEMI CALLED FOR YUGOSLAV MILITARY
SERVICE

REF: BELGRADE 4778 AND PREVIOUS

1. DEPARTMENT OFFICERS (COUNTRY OFFICER FOR YUGOSLAVIA AND OFFICER FROM L/M/SCA) RAISED QUESTION OF INDUCTION OF AZEMI INTO YUGOSLAV MILITARY SERVICE WITH YUGOSLAV FIRST SECRETARY VIDOVIC OCTOBER 26. AFTER BRIEFING VIDOVIC ON CIRCUMSTANCES OF THIS CASE, DEPARTMENT OFFICERS MADE FOLLOWING POINTS:

(A) AZEMI TRAVELED TO YUGOSLAVIA ON US PASSPORT WHICH CONTAINED VALID YUGOSLAV VISA;

(B) AZEMI STATES THAT AT TIME OF VISA APPLICATION AT YUGOSLAV CONGEN IN NEW YORK CITY, HE INQUIRED ABOUT POSSIBLE MILITARY OBLIGATION AND WAS ALLEGEDLY INFORMED HE WOULD ENCOUNTER NO PROBLEMS IN THIS REGARD;

(C) GIVEN INTEREST OF CONGRESSMAN JAMES GLOVER OF NEW YORK, DEPARTMENT IS HOPEFUL THIS MATTER WILL BE RESOLVED BY RETURN OF AZEMI'S PASSPORT.

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2. OFFICER FROM L/M/SCA PUT FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

TO VIDOVIC:

(A) WHAT WAS LEGAL BASIS FOR SEIZURE OF AZEMI'S US
PASSPORT BY YUGOSLAV AUTHORITIES? WILL PASSPORT BE

RETURNED AND, IF SO, WHEN?

(B) IS AZEMI UNDER CUSTODY?

(C) HAVE CRIMINAL CHARGES BEEN BROUGHT AGAINST AZEMI,
I.E. WAS HE INDUCTED AS A MATTER OF COURSE OR IS HE BEING
CHARGED WITH EVADING LAW REGARDING CONSCRIPTION?

(D) WHAT ARE THE STATUTORY AGE LIMITS FOR ELIGIBILITY
FOR YUGOSLAV MILITARY SERVICE?

3. VIDOVIC OBSERVED THAT ACCORDING TO YUGOSLAV LAW, ALL
MALE YUGOSLAV NATIONALS ARE OBLIGED TO SERVE IN THE JNA.
PRESUMABLY, AZEMI HAS NOT RPT NOT DIVESTED HIMSELF OF
YUGOSLAV CITIZENSHIP, THEREFORE, HE IS ELIGIBLE FOR
MILITARY SERVICE. VIDOVIC SPECULATED THAT GOY AUTHORITIES
SEIZED AZEMI'S PASSPORT TO ASSURE THAT HE WOULD NOT DEPART
YUGOSLAVIA.

4. VIDOVIC SAID HE WOULD COMMUNICATE WITH THE APPROPRIATE
YUGOSLAV AUTHORITIES AND ADVISE THE DEPARTMENT OF THE
STATUS OF THE CASE. HE ALSO INDICATED HE WOULD SEEK
ANSWERS TO THE QUESTIONS LISTED IN PARA 2 OF THIS
MESSAGE. RUSH

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